



THE CLAIMS

What I claim as my invention is:

1. (Currently amended) A method for using a computer to enable or to facilitate ~~communication~~ the sending or transmission of email or electronic mail text communication between 2 or more parties in which a the Sender Party or Parties (also known as Caller party or Parties), at or before the time of sending or transmitting the communication, pays a fee, bears a cost, or provides consideration which benefits in part the receiving party, comprising:
  - i. utilizing a network presence;
  - ii. establishing and organizing one or more network or Internet-based Merchant Intermediaries, email gateways, message centers, e-commerce sites, or combinations thereof;
  - iii. [ii.]enabling one or more Sender or Caller Parties to input terms or information ~~inputting~~ into the website, computer, or other database ~~computer search terms or information~~, including by the use of clicks on hypertext links, to search for or to locate a Receiver Party or an address, name, account, location, affiliation, or reference identification

associated with a specific party to receive the communication;

- iv. ~~[iii.]~~ enabling one or more Sender or Caller Parties to input ~~inputting~~ into the computer information (including inputting text, graphics, sound, or other information), that creates, formats, forwards, edits, modifies, addresses, or directs a communication or transmission;
- v. ~~[iv.]~~ enabling one or more Sender or Caller Parties to input ~~inputting~~ into the computer a payment identifier, account information, security code, or other information to enable a Sender or Caller party to pay for, to assume a cost or obligation, to charge or otherwise to bill, to account, to debit, to access benefits, to license, or otherwise to transfer benefits or consideration that in whole or in part benefit a receiver party;
- vi. ~~[v.]~~ charging or requiring a threshold payment ~~or fee, accounting of pre-existing benefits, or a present transfer of benefits or consideration by Caller Party, Fan, or other party on Caller Party or Fan's behalf~~ from Sender or Caller Party, at or before the time of sending or transmission of the Caller's or

~~Sender's prior to connecting, sending,~~  
~~transmitting, or forwarding Caller Party's or~~  
~~Fan's communication to Receiver Party's~~  
~~account, address, or to a location associated~~  
~~with a specific receiver;~~

vii. ~~[vi.]~~ segregating, transmitting, storing,  
holding, distributing, or passing through  
transmissions or communications ~~directed~~ to an  
account, address, or location associated with  
a specific receiver party, account, or  
~~address;~~

viii. ~~[vii.]~~ compensating party who receives  
communications or participates in the method.

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, in which the  
step of ~~utilizing a network presence~~ establishing and  
organizing one or more network or Internet-based  
Merchant Intermediaries, email gateways, message  
centers, e-commerce sites, or combinations thereof,  
comprises:

- i. establishing one or more network presence(s)  
on one or more networks, computers, or  
devices;
- ii. establishing one or more internet-based web-  
sites or network based interactive information  
providers including those incorporating one or

more databases, web-based email providers,  
email gateways, traditional mail servers, e-  
commerce sites, or combinations thereof;

- iii. organizing one or more internet-based web-  
sites or network-based interactive information  
providers including those incorporating one or  
more databases, web-based email servers, email  
gateways, traditional mail servers, e-commerce  
sites, or combinations thereof to allow  
Receiver Parties to input information; enable  
Receiver Parties to provide requested  
information (including contact,  
authentication, or financial information  
relating to Receiver Party) or other  
information requested by Merchant  
Intermediary; establish accounts (including  
email and payment accounts); enable one or  
more Receiver parties to list or publish  
information about themselves on the network  
presence or web-site of the Merchant  
Intermediaries; bind Receiver Party to  
agreement with Merchant Intermediary.

- iv. ~~[ii.]~~ further comprising:

establishing one or more email account(s) and  
address(es) for Receiver Party, including

establishing unique addresses, accounts, mailboxes, pass-through means, or other identifiers or repositories for Receiver parties to receive communications or transmissions;

- v. establishing and providing a one or more network accessible searchable database(s), searchable ~~or~~ information display or interface of accounts, names, persons, entities, identifiers, or other references related to Persons or entities that have agreed to or able to receive email or communication for a fee to enable a Caller or Sender party to browse, to search for, to locate, or to find a Receiver Party or an address, account, location, or reference identification associated with a specific Receiver party to receive the communication;
- vi. and providing additional information, pages references, links, or other data about or concerning the receiver party or its associations.

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, in which the step, or part of the step, of ~~inputting into the computer search terms or information to search for or~~

~~to locate the address, account, location, or reference~~  
~~identification associated with a specific party to~~  
~~receive the communication to search for or to locate a~~  
Receiver Party or an address, name, account, location,  
affiliation, or reference identification associated  
with a specific party to receive the communication,  
comprises:

- ~~i. establishing unique addresses, accounts,~~  
~~mailboxes, pass-through means, or other~~  
~~identifiers or repositories for parties to~~  
~~receive, store, or access communications or~~  
~~transmissions;~~
- i. ~~(ii-)~~ verifying, checking, or authenticating  
that the specific Receiver parties to receive  
the communication are authentically associated  
with the commonly known party most often or  
commonly associated in the public's mind with  
the name or association of the name given as a  
party intending to receive communication;
- ii. ~~[iii-]~~ enabling the Merchant Intermediary,  
by automated means and other means, to check  
and verify the information provided by the  
Receiver Party upon the Receiver Party's  
establishment of an account and for the  
Merchant Intermediary to verify by use of third  
party authentication measures, computerized,

automated, in person, and otherwise, that the  
Person or entity requesting to be affiliated  
with the Name is actually associated with the  
named Receiver Party;

iii. ~~[iv.]~~ Providing a means for the Caller or  
Sender Party to search, find, locate, identify,  
and access addresses, accounts, locations, or  
reference identifications associated with a  
specific party to receive the communication or  
transmission;

iv. ~~[v.]~~ Providing additional information about  
the receiver party or its associations.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, in which the step of  
inputting into the computer search terms or information  
to search for or to locate the address, account,  
location, or reference identification associated with a  
specific party to receive the communication, comprises:

i. establishing addresses, accounts, locations,  
reference identifications, identifiers,  
channels, codes, e-mail addresses, web site  
addresses or pages, storage accounts, or other  
repositories, pass-through accounts,  
addresses, sites, or means for parties to

receive or to store communication or transmission;

- ii. organizing the addresses, accounts, locations, reference identifications, identifiers, channels, codes, e-mail addresses, web site addresses or pages, storage accounts, or other repositories, pass-through accounts, addresses, sites or means so that they can be searched and located by the name or association of the parties to receive the communication or transmission;
- iii. providing a means to search, find, locate, identify, and access addresses, accounts, locations, or reference identifications associated with an account or address associated with a specific party to receive the communication or transmission.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, in which the step of ~~inputting into the computer information that creates, formats, forwards, edits, modifies, addresses, or directs a communication or transmission~~ enabling one or more Caller or Sender Parties to input ~~inputting~~ into the computer information (including inputting text, graphics, sound, or other information), that



creates, formats, forwards, edits, modifies, addresses, or directs a communication or transmission, comprises:

- i. Providing services or means to enable Sender or Caller parties to input information such as text, audio, or graphics or to create, to format, or to direct communications, e-mail, or transmissions.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, in which the step of ~~inputting into the computer a payment identifier, account information, security code, or other information to enable parties to pay for, to assume a cost or obligation, to charge or otherwise to bill, to account, to debit, to access benefits, to license, or otherwise to transfer benefits or consideration~~ enabling one or more Sender or Caller Parties to input ~~inputting~~ into the computer a payment identifier, account information, security code, or other information to enable a Caller or Sender party to pay for, to assume a cost or obligation, to charge or otherwise to bill, to account, to debit, to access benefits, to license, or otherwise to transfer benefits or consideration that in whole or in part benefit a receiver party comprises:

- i. Establishing terms, conditions, and legal agreements between the Sender or Caller Party and the Merchant Intermediary parties;
- ii. Inputting or enabling Receiver parties to input into the computer information that forms the basis of a contract and to require or to allow the Sender or Caller Party to accept or to form a legally binding contract or agreement between the Sender (or Caller) and Receiver parties on the Receiver Party's terms and conditions;
- iii. Enable Merchant Intermediary to authenticate or to verify, by automated, in person, third party or other authentication means, the identity and information provided by a Caller or Sender Party;
- iv. providing services or means to enable one or more Sender or Caller parties to pay for, to assume a cost or obligation, to charge or otherwise to bill, to account, to debit, to access benefits, to license, to provide consideration, or otherwise to compensate or benefit one or more other Receiver parties;
- v. providing services or means to process payment, to transact financial transfers, to authenticate or authorize transactions, to

charge a Sender or Caller party a fee or cost,  
to receive payment and consideration, to  
segregate consideration received, to account  
for consideration received, or otherwise to  
enable a Sender or Caller party to provide or  
to transfer consideration.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, in which the  
step of ~~segregating, transmitting, storing, holding,~~  
~~distributing, or passing through transmissions or~~  
~~communications directed to an account, address, or~~  
~~location associated with a specific party, receiver,~~  
~~account, or address~~ segregating, transmitting,  
storing, holding, distributing, or passing through  
transmissions or communications directed to an account,  
address, or location associated with a specific  
receiver party, account, or address comprises:

- i. Segregating, storing, holding, or directing  
transmissions or communications directed to a  
specific receiver party in or to an web-based  
mail, traditional email, or other email  
account, location or address associated with a  
specific receiver party;
- ii. transmitting, passing through, or distributing  
communication to Receiver parties or to an  
account or address or location associated with

receiver party on or corresponding to a  
receiver party's request or agreement to  
access or receive communication.

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, in which the  
step of compensating party who receives communications  
or participates in the method comprises:

- i. Receiving, authorizing, and segregating  
financial and beneficial transfers;
- ii. accounting for fees, revenues, costs, and  
other items;
- ~~iii. transmitting, storing, holding, or  
distributing communication to receiver parties  
or to an account or address or location  
associated with receiver;~~
- ~~iv. enabling parties that have received  
communication to access the communication by  
enabling the parties to download, read, view,  
or otherwise access the communication;~~
- iii. [ ~~v.~~ ] compensating or paying parties that  
have received communication or participated for  
his or her or their reception, participation,  
or per agreement.

9. (Currently amended) A ~~system and~~ method for enabling or  
facilitating electronic communication in which a

Merchant Intermediary enables or facilitates one party to pay a fee, bear a cost, or provide consideration that in whole or in part benefits the party that receives the communication for the right or opportunity to transmit or to direct a communication to the receiver party, comprising:

- i. establishing an interface, site, identifier, or network presence on one or more networks or devices;
- ii. establishing addresses, accounts, identifiers, channels, codes, e-mail addresses, web site addresses, storage accounts, or other repositories, pass-through accounts, addresses, sites, or means;
- iii. establishing one or more unique sites, accounts, or addresses for unique receiver parties in which the Merchant Intermediary may hold, segregate, or pass through information or transmissions directed to a specific Receiver, account, or address;
- iv. establishing a means for a Sender or Caller party to locate the address or account of a specific receiver party;
- v. providing services or means to allow Sender or Caller parties to create, to format, or to

direct communications or transmissions to  
specified receiver parties;

- vi. providing services or means to allow Sender or Caller parties to pay for, to assume a cost or obligation, to charge or otherwise to bill, to account, to access benefits, to debit, to license, or otherwise to compensate or benefit the Merchant Intermediary or the Receiver;
- vii. charging or requiring a threshold payment of fee, accounting of pre-existing benefits, or a present transfer of benefits or consideration by Sender or Caller Party, Fan, or other party on Sender or Caller Party's or Fan's behalf prior to connecting, sending, transmitting, or forwarding Sender or Caller Party's or Fan's communication to Receiver Party's account, address, or to a location associated with a specific receiver;
- viii. ~~(vii.)~~ providing services or means to receive fees, to segregate benefits received, to charge Sender or Caller parties a fee or cost or otherwise processes financial transactions or transfers associated with a Sender or Caller party's acquiring the right or the opportunity to transmit or to direct

- communication to an address or account  
associated with a specific Receiver party;
- ix. (~~viii.~~) receiving, authorizing and accounting  
for fees, revenues, costs, and other items;
- x. (~~ix.~~) transmitting, storing, holding, or  
distributing Sender or Caller Party's  
communication to Receiver parties or to  
accounts, addresses, or locations associated  
with Receiver parties;
- xi. (~~x.~~) compensating or paying Receiver parties  
for his or her or their participation.

10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the  
Sender or Caller party is referred or delivered  
directly to a page, address, account, or location  
associated with a receiver party such that the Sender  
or Caller party does not have to input or to search for  
or locate the page, address, account, or location  
associated with a receiver party.

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the  
Sender or Caller party does not have to input or enter  
any information or data relating to the address,  
account, or content of the communication because the  
Sender or Caller Party's communication is pre-existing  
or automatically directed, forwarded, transmitted, or

otherwise addressed or sent to the address or account corresponding to the specific receiver party.

12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the Sender or Caller party does not have to enter any payment identifier, account information, security code, or other information to enable the Sender or Caller party to access an existing account, to transfer payment, or to provide consideration because the Sender or Caller party's computer or other device, for example by use of cookies or other means, automatically provides this or other information.

13. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the party does not have to pay fees, or bear a cost because a third party provides consideration or compensation that benefits the receiver party.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the receiver party is compensated with consideration other than money.

15. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the receiver party may set the terms, price, and conditions of the agreement or communication.



16. (Currently amended) The ~~system and~~ method of claim 9 where the Sender or Caller Party's communication is stored on the email server, host computer, or other device of the Merchant Intermediary and not transmitted immediately to another computer.

17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 where the Sender or Caller Party's communication includes one of more types or kinds of data or information including for example, text, characters, audio, graphics, compressed video, instant messaging, chat, voice, or any other type of information that can be expressed in binary or digital form.

18. (Currently amended) The ~~system and~~ method of claim 9 wherein the ~~caller~~ Sender or Caller party accesses the Merchant Intermediary by utilizing a voice network or communicates using voice or audio information.

19. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the steps or processes are automated or performed automatically, except for the steps ~~ii-iv~~ iii-v of claim 1 where they require inputting information into the computer.

20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the  
steps ~~ii-iv~~ iii-v of the method and steps may be taken  
in different orders or sequences or performed  
simultaneously.